IslamWeb

All perfect praise be to Allaah, The Lord of the Worlds. I testify that there is none worthy of worship except Allaah, and that Muhammad is His slave and Messenger, may Allaah exalt his mention as well as that of his family and all his companions.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to those who contributed to the publication of this book. May Allaah reward them abundantly for their efforts.

Ways to Attain Forgiveness

All Praise is due to Allaah the Forgiver of Sins, the Acceptor of Repentance; may He send salutations and exalt the mention of the seal of all Prophets and Messengers, our Prophet Muhammad, his family and all his companions.

Allaah says what means, "Say: O My slaves! Who have transgressed against themselves (by committing evil deeds and sins)! Despair not of the Mercy of Allaah, verily, Allaah forgives all sins. Truly, He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful." (Az-Zumar: 53) and also, "And perform Salaat, at the two ends of the day and in some hours of the night [i.e. the five compulsory Salaat]. Verily, the good deeds remove the evil deeds (i.e. small sins). That is a reminder (an advice) for the mindful (those who accept advice)." (Hood: 114).

Dear reader! We all make mistakes and we are all in dire need forgiveness for the sins which we commit day and night. It is out of the mercy of Allaah upon us that He facilitated many ways to attain forgiveness. Never will a Muslim adhere to them, except that he will be included in the forgiveness and mercy of Allaah, as long as he is a believer and does not practice any form of Shirk (associating partners with Allaah in worship), because disbelief or association with Allaah prevent forgiveness from taking place.

Allaah says what means, "Verily, Allaah forgives not (the sin of) setting up partners (in worship) with Him, but He forgives whom He wills, sins other than that, and whoever sets up partners in worship with Allaah, has indeed strayed far away." (An-Nisaa': 116).

Ways to attain forgiveness

The following are some ways which Allaah made leading to the forgiveness of sins, so that one does not feel despair and give up on the mercy of Allaah, and so that one can also rush towards virtue, as Allaah says what means, "And march forth in the way (which leads to) forgiveness from your Lord, and for Paradise as wide as the heavens and the earth, prepared for the pious." (Aal 'Imraan: 133).

- *Islam*: Allaah says what means, “Say to those who have disbelieved, if they cease (from disbelief), their past will be forgiven. But if they return (thereto), then the examples of those (punished) before them have already preceded (as a warning).” (Al-Anfaal: 38). ‘Amr ibn Al-‘Aas, may Allaah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said, “Did you not know that one's Islam voids whatever he did before it?” (Muslim).
- *Migration*: This is to relocate from the land of disbelief to the land of Islam. Allaah says what means, “Then, verily, your Lord for those who emigrated after they had been put to trials and thereafter strove hard and fought (for the Cause of Allaah) and were patient, verily, your Lord afterward is, Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.” (An-Nahl: 110). ‘Amr ibn Al-‘Aas, may Allaah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said, “Migration voids whatever was before it” (Muslim).
- *An Accepted Hajj*: ‘Amr ibn Al-‘Aas, may Allaah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said, “An accepted Hajj voids whatever was before it.” (Muslim). Abu Hurayrah, may Allaah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said, “He who performs Hajj and does not involve (himself) in a marital relation or a sin (during the Hajj), will return from Hajj in a state just like the one his mother gave birth to him in (i.e., free from sins).” (Al-Bukhaari).
- *Supplication upon hearing the Athaan*: Sa’d ibn Abi Waqqaas, may Allaah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said, “He who says upon hearing the person calling the Athaan, ‘I also bear witness that none has the right to be worshipped except Allaah alone without a partner, and that Muhammad is His slave and messenger. I accept Allaah as a Lord, Muhammad as a messenger, and Islam as a religion’ - all his previous sins will be forgiven.” (Muslim).
- *Coinciding with the angels when saying 'Ameen': Abu Hurayrah,* may Allaah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said, “When the Imaam says 'Ameen', say 'Ameen', because he who coincides with the angels when saying Ameen will get all his previous sins forgiven.” (Al-Bukhaari & Muslim).
- *Coinciding with the angels when saying ‘Our lord for you is all the praise’:*

The Prophet sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said, “When the Imaam says ‘Allaah hears he who praises Him’, say, ‘Our lord for you is all the praise’, because he who coincides with the angels when saying so will get all his previous sins forgiven.” (Al-Bukhaari & Muslim).

- *Praying two rak’ah of salaah attentively*: The Prophet sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said, “He who properly performs ablution, then prays any two rak’ah (of salaah) without being heedless, will get all his previous sins forgiven.” (Ahmad).
- *Gathering in circles of mentioning Allaah*: Sahl ibn Hanthalah, may Allaah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said, “It is never that a group of people gather to mention Allaah, but they will be told upon leaving the circle (after finishing): 'Your sins have been forgiven.'” (Ahmad).
- *Sickness*: ‘Aa’ishah, may Allaah be pleased with her, narrated that the Prophet sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said, “Whenever a believer becomes sick, he will be purified from his sins, just as fire purifies steel.” (Al-Bukhaari).

Ways to prevent punishment

Beloved brother! Ibn Taymiyyah, may Allaah have mercy upon him, said that a believer may prevent the punishment of a sin he committed befalling him by one of the following ten ways:

- Repenting sincerely so that Allaah would forgive him, because the one who sincerely repents from a sin is exactly like he who never committed it.
- Asking forgiveness from Allaah, so that Allaah would forgive him.
- Performing virtuous deeds which would expiate the sin, Allaah says what means, “And perform prayer, at the two ends of the day and in some hours of the night [i.e. the five compulsory prayers]. Verily, the good deeds remove the evil deeds (i.e. small sins). That is a reminder (an advice) for the mindful (those who accept advice).” (Hood: 114).
- His brothers in faith supplicating for his forgiveness.
- Some of his brothers in faith offering the reward of a righteous deed they perform, to him.
- The Prophet sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam interceding for him with Allaah

not to punish him.

- Allaah putting him through trials in this life, whether in his wealth, health, children or family.
- Allaah putting him through trials in the grave.
- Allaah putting him through trials and horror on the Day of Resurrection.
- Allaah forgiving him out of His mercy.

Anyone who misses all these ten ways will have no one to blame except himself. Allaah says in a Qudsi Hadeeth, "They are but your deeds, I record them, then I pay you back accordingly; so whoever finds good, let him thank Allaah, and whoever finds otherwise, let him blame no one but himself." (Muslim).

Ways to avoid the Hellfire

Just like Allaah gave us ways to attain His forgiveness and pleasure, He also gave us ways to avoid the Hellfire, Allaah says what means, "Everyone shall taste death. And only on the Day of Resurrection shall you be paid your wages in full. And whoever is removed away from the Fire and admitted to Paradise, he indeed is successful. The life of this world is only the enjoyment of deception (a deceiving thing)." (Aal 'Imraan: 185). The following are some of these ways

- Persevering through the death of three children, the Prophet sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam said, "Allaah made the Hellfire prohibited for the one who buries three of his children (while persevering through it)." (Tabaraani).
- Correctly raising three daughters, or sisters, and being kind to them, 'Aa'ishah, may Allaah be pleased with her, narrated that the Prophet sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam said, "No one from my nation properly raises three daughters or sisters and is kind to them, but they will be like a shield for him from the Hellfire." (Bayhaqi).
- Defending a believer in his absence, Asmaa', may Allaah be pleased with her, narrated that the Prophet sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam said, "He who defends his brother in his absence against people who are backbiting him, Allaah will free him from the Hellfire." (Ahmad).

- Praying forty days with the congregation and attending the initial 'Allaahu Akbar', Anas, may Allaah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said, “He who prays forty days attending the initial 'Allaahu Akbar', will be freed from hypocrisy and from the Hellfire.” (At-Tirmithi).
- Good manners, Abu Hurayrah, may Allaah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said, “Allaah will forbid the Hellfire to (even) touch the one who is gentle and lenient.” (Al-Haakim).
- Praying Fajr and ‘Asr, ‘Umaarah ibn Ruwaybah, may Allaah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said, “The one who prays Fajr and ‘Asr will never enter into the Hellfire.” (Muslim).

Ways to become worthy of Paradise

- Uttering the two testimonies of faith and applying them. ‘Ubaadah ibn As-Saamit, may Allaah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said, “Allaah will admit into Paradise regardless of his deeds, any one who says, 'I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship except Allaah alone without a partner, and that Muhammad is His slave and messenger, and that ‘Eesaa is His slave and messenger and His Word which He bestowed to Maryam and a Spirit; and that Paradise is true, and Hell Fire is true.'” (Al-Bukhaari & Muslim).
- Memorizing the beautiful names of Allaah. Abu Hurayrah, may Allaah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said, “Allaah Has ninety nine names, he who memorizes them will enter Paradise.” (Al-Bukhaari & Muslim). Memorizing here means to memorize, believe and act according to them.
- Reciting the verse of Al-Kursi (the throne) after each obligatory prayer. Abu Umaamah, may Allaah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said, “There is nothing preventing the one who recites the verse of Al-Kursi after each obligatory prayer from entering Paradise, except being alive.” (An-Nasaa’i).
- Giving in charity. Huthayfah, may Allaah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said, “Any one who spends in charity sincerely for the sake of Allaah, and dies upon doing it, will be admitted into Paradise.” (Ahmad).

- Financially supporting an orphan. Sahl ibn Sa’d, may Allaah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said, “I will be this close in Paradise to the one who financially supports an orphan (then he joined his middle and pointer fingers)." (Al-Bukhaari).
- Guarding one's tongue and private parts. Sahl ibn Sa’d, may Allaah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said, “Whosoever guards his tongue and his private parts, I will guarantee him Paradise.” (Al-Bukhaari).
- A wife obeying her husband. Abu Hurayrah, may Allaah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said, “If a woman prays her five obligatory prayers, fasts her month (of Ramadhaan), guards her private parts, and obeys her husband, she will enter Paradise from any gate she wishes.” (Ibn Hibbaan).
- Being free from arrogance, debt and stealing from war booty. Thawbaan, may Allaah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said, “The one who dies while being free from arrogance, debt and stealing from war booty will enter Paradise.” (At-Tirmithi).
- Being a just ruler, kindhearted, and chaste. ‘Iyaadh ibn Himaar, may Allaah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said, “Three types (of people) are from the people of Paradise: a just ruler who correctly spends the money under his authority, a man who is kindhearted with his family and the Muslims in general, and a needy man with a family who does not ask people for help.” (Muslim).
- Removing harmful objects from the path. Abu Hurayrah, may Allaah be pleased with him, narrated that he heard the Prophet sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam saying, “I saw a man enjoying himself in Paradise because he cut down a tree that was harming people which was in the middle of a path.” (Muslim).
- Increasing the repayment time to a person who cannot repay a debt. Huthayfah, may Allaah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said, “A man died and entered Paradise, he was asked, 'What did you do (to gain Paradise)?' he replied, 'I used to trade and give extra time to those who could not repay me, and be easy on them if they only paid me partially, and I would overlook some of what they owed me.” (Muslim).

- Asking Allaah for Paradise three times and seeking refuge in Him from the Hellfire three times. Anas, may Allaah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said, “When a person supplicates for Allaah to admit him into Paradise three times, Paradise will say, 'O Allaah! Admit him into Paradise, and when a person seeks refuge in Allaah from the Hellfire three times, the Hellfire will say, 'O Allaah! Protect him from the Hellfire.” (At-Tirmithi).
- Fasting the day of ‘Aashooraa’ (the 10th of the month of Muharram). Abu Qataadah, may Allaah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said, “Fasting the day of ‘Arafah expiates for the sins of two years - the previous year and the coming year, and fasting ‘Aashooraa’ expiates for the previous year.” (Muslim).
- Waiving the right to fulfill an agreed upon deal. Abu Hurayrah, may Allaah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet sallallaahu ‘alayhi wa sallam said, “Allaah will forgive a person who waives his right upon another Muslim in fulfilling an agreed upon deal.” (Al-Bukhaari & Muslim). This means to drop his right in carrying out the deal which they agreed upon if his fellow Muslim requests him to cancel the deal.